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Venezuela strengthens security on Colombia border

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela yesterday said it ordered 3,000 soldiers to its northwestern border, just days after leftist Colombian guerrillas ambushed a Colombian army patrol and killed 12 soldiers.



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, pictured on May 2, after attending a session at the lower house of parliament in Naypyidaw. Suu Kyi will travel overseas next week for the first time in more than two decades to attend an economic forum in Bangkok, according to her party. (see story on pg 7)

The Colombian military said it was "very likely" that rebels with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) crossed from Venezuela to stage the attack in a remote area on the Guajira Peninsula, then fled back across the border.

Two brigades from Venezuela's National Armed Forces and a large number of troops from the regional Air Force Command have been dispatched to the border area since Monday, boosting a permanent army presence there, Defense Minister Henry Rangel told Telesur television.

"We are conducting very specific tasks to search for and find possible elements of the armed groups that have penetrated the Venezuelan territory," Rangel said.

Bogota had called on Caracas to take "effective" action against the rebels.

Rangel spoke ahead of a meeting of Venezuelan and Colombian foreign ministers to discuss border security cooperation.

Any rebels found will face the "iron hand" of Venezuelan security forces, he said.

Winter 2012-2013 Aruba Airport Authority N.V. announces Delta Airlines service increase daily non-stop year-round service between JFK and Aruba

Connecting two airport facilities managed in cooperation with Schiphol Group



Aruba Airport Authority is pleased to announce Delta service increase nonstop daily service between New York (JFK) and Aruba beginning December 15, 2012.

Delta has been servicing the Aruba market for over 10 years, and has shown a strong partnership and commitment to Aruba. After American Airlines announced cancellation of JFK route last November 2011, the JFK-Aruba route was faced with an imminent

shortage of capacity, that could only partly be filled by JetBlue.

Additional to the JFK services, Delta offers daily flights from Atlanta and seasonal services from La Guardia.

The new flight will operate daily with a B737-800 aircraft configuration of 160 seats between JFK and Aruba, starting on December 15, 2012. The daily flights are operated from JFK at 8:10 a.m. and arrive in Aruba at 2:12 p.m. – the return flights leave Aruba at 3:15 p.m. and arrive in JFK at 7:36 p.m.

The total amount of Winter 2012-2013 seats is with that addition 62,988 for all carriers JFK-Aruba combined showing an increase of 27.2% compared to winter 2011-2012.

Delta continues New York growth with expanded Caribbean services. Delta is optimizing its schedule at JFK to facilitate connections to international flights. JFK is a major global gateway for

Delta, which operates nonstop to more than 45 international destinations from the airport.

At JFK, Delta, in cooperation with Schiphol Group and the Port Authority, is currently under way on a \$1.2 billion program to enhance and expand Terminal 4, adding nine gates. Terminal 4 is managed by Schiphol Group and Schiphol also engineers and realizes the \$ 1.2 billion expansion. The enlarged Terminal 4 will open in Spring 2013.

"We are extremely pleased with the service expansion, daily flights out of JFK from Delta" said Peter Steinmetz, CEO of AAA N.V.. "It clearly illustrates that where an existing market is underserved market forces move to reach a new equilibrium between supply and demand. Personally, I am also thrilled by expanded services with JFK Terminal 4, that is managed by my colleagues of Schiphol Group. It gives a special flavor to this excellent news."

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Annual Port and University Study Highlights Presented to the Media



Alfonso Boekhoudt

The probability of a cruise visitor returning to a destination depends greatly upon the level of satisfaction experienced by the passenger, the better the experience the more likely they are to return. Hence our interest in uncovering how pleased our visitors actually are with our port, whether this influences their desire to return to Aruba and how these visits impact the island's economy. According to Alfonso Boekhoudt, Director of the Aruba Ports Authority, "It is crucial that we are able to measure these factors, they are far more relevant to determining whether or not our industry is growing in the right direction than concluding this merely by the quantity of passengers on a visiting ship."

To seek the answers to these questions and to study the impression that our port has on cruise passengers, students from the Faculty of Tourism at the University of Aruba, under guidance of Professor Dr. Ryan R. Peterson, conducted a series of in-depth interviews with visiting passengers at our port in 2011. The inquiries focused primarily on the calculation of the direct and indirect impact on the revenues produced by port activities and the direct and indirect effects on the island's economy (mainly the center of our city Oranjestad).

We calculated the spending patterns in specific areas of our economy, such as: food & beverage, commerce, transportation and others. We were able to identify the total contribution of the port on our economy which include direct and indirect factors.

We also identified experiential components that play an important role in our economy such as:

- The quality of our port and its components
- The quality of our destination and elements of influence.

Continue on pg 11

Sunday KOFFIE MORGEN

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Tuesday Daily Raffle \$ 500 - BlackJack Tournament

Wednesday Daily Raffle \$ 500 - Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT

Thursday Daily Raffle \$ 500 Earn DOUBLE POINTS

Friday BlackJack Tournament

Saturday KOFFIE MORGEN



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Aruba's historical website receives more images of the past!



Torpedo at Eagle Beach
Unexploded torpedo fired on 16 Feb. 1942 by U-156 at the Arkansas, berthed at Eagle Pier.
Inspected by Dutch, left, and US Army Officer, Cap. Robert Bruskin.
Four Dutch marines were killed when trying to take it apart and it exploded.

The website detailing the history of Aruba, www.historiadiruba.aw, has received a new page with more images. These are old images that were being shown in theaters back then.

The oldest films date back to the time of the Second World War in 1942. That was when the Germans attacked the Lago Refinery and ships with a torpedo. You could see tankers on fire, holes in the tanks at Lago and the torpedo that washed up on the beach at Punto Brabo. During the dismantling of the torpedo, it exploded and killed 4 Dutch marines.

There are also images of the day that Princess Juliana travelled from Canada to come and visit Aruba. Americans also came to Aruba to try and save the refinery. Right after the war a documentary was prepared of the funeral of Boy Ecury.

There are different presentations in the film of the royal visits of Princess Beatrix and Queen Juliana and of the round table conference held in 1954. This conference was to discuss the new Statutes of

erage of Betico Croes in Holland, and Henny Eman's speech in the Island Council. There is also a report about the problems that took place in Curacao in May 1969.

The series of recordings concludes with various movies shot by amateurs showing something of the life on Aruba during the 50's and early 60's. In one scene, a housewife is seen shopping in the Main Street in San Nicolaas.

Other scenes show a bit of Carnival leaving the Caribe Club and the end at the Wilhelmina Stadium. In still filming there is a scene with a family on their way to spend a day at the Caribbean Hotel which had recently opened.

All of these recorded films can be seen on the page of the historical films in the historical website on Aruba, www.historiadiruba.aw. The entire project (website) was sponsored by SETAR.

In addition to the different chapters about the history of Aruba, there are also high quality photos taken by a doctor in the Lago Refinery, Dr. Arthur Meiners, taken in the 50's, 60's and 70's.



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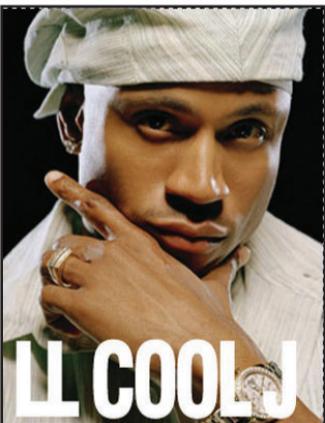
Robert Thiel

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It's back to the beach for the 2012 Soul Beach Music Festival tomorrow night

The 10th edition of the Soul Beach Music Festival to be conducted on Aruba returns to its roots and the great feel of a colossal beach party with LL Cool J and Ledisi center stage at the Nikky Beach Ampitheater tomorrow night. Audiences can expect heart-pounding vibrations from this power packed line-up.

The first round of fireworks will begin with performances by LL COOL J featuring DJ Z-Trip. A two-time Grammy® Award winner, recording artist, talented actor, author, NAACP Image Award winner, entrepreneur and philanthropist, LL continues to display his wide range of talents with every project. First introduced to the world in 1984 as a Def Jam Records flagship artist, LL is the first rap artist to amass ten consecutive platinum-plus selling albums. The multi-platinum artist and two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominee is currently tied for third place for most Billboard chart debuts by a



LL COOL J



rapper. As an actor, LL COOL J has successfully transitioned to one of the consistently highest rated shows on television as lead co-star of the CBS hit prime-time drama series, "NCIS: LOS ANGELES." His performance on the show garnered him a NAACP Image Award in 2011 and 2012 for his role of 'Special Agent Sam Hanna.'

With her new album PIECES OF ME, Ledisi undoubtedly proves that she is a woman to know. Loaded with emotion and charged with

unparalleled soul, this record adds another dimension to the persona the singer has been sharing with audiences since her explosive entrance on the music scene a few short years ago. Her last two albums put a spotlight on this dynamic performer. 2007's breakthrough hit "Lost and Found", was nominated for two Grammy® awards including Best New Artist, and in 2009, the attention-stealing "Turn Me Loose", garnered two Grammy® nods and a No. 1 debut position on the Billboard R&B chart. PIECES OF ME is a natural progression for a singer who is compelled to grow and mature with each creative effort.

The SBMF is proud to

present the Aruba All Stars, a group entirely comprised of Arubans who have achieved fame at international levels. Their music is rooted in traditional Caribbean, reggae, jazz rhythm and blues, which transforms any venue they play into a very special tropical world. The aim has always been to spread the joy of the Caribbean and to be seen as ambassadors of this authentic music. The band-leader, Roger Peterson, is one of the most well known singer songwriters in Aruba, with an extensive fan base in Europe and the U.S. Each performer in this band is a leader of their own bands in some way and part of the premiere singers, musicians and songwriters from Aruba.

For information about ticket sales, accommodations and the latest updates sign up for CLUB SOUL BEACH, at <http://www.soulbeach.net> or

visit <http://www.aruba.com>. Join the Soul Beach Music Festival community: follow us on Twitter @SoulBeachMusic and become a fan of 2012 Soul Beach Music Festival on www.Facebook/soulbeachmusic.

Ticket prices for the SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL are \$70 US (AFL 126) per concert or \$200 US (AFL 360) for a three-night concert package (plus applicable service charges).

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*Venue Box Office Two Hours Before Showtime

Crystal & Seaport Casinos Summer Cash Campaign is Back !



till September 30th, 2012.

Participation is easy, every 25 points accumulated on the Crystal & Seaport Casinos membership card "The Card" will be entitle to a campaign coupon. Once the coupon is filled and dropped into one of the two very visible tombolas, the chance to win awg. 100.000,- in cash becomes a reality. The tombolas are located at the Crystal & Seaport Casinos.

Table players favoring Mini bacarat, Black Jack, Roulette, Caribbean Stud poker, Three Card Poker and the Seaport Casino Race & Sports Book can also participate in the campaign, as they will receive their campaign coupon with their accumulat-

The Crystal & Seaport Casinos have just revealed their Summer Cash promotion awarding players great cash prizes with Crystal & Seaport Casinos "Summer Cash Campaign! While the campaign will be starting Friday June 1st and will be ongoing

Beautiful!



Picture depicts local birds: The Trupial (L) and the Pri-kichi (R)

ing points.

Locals and visitors are invited to become members at the player center at Crystal or Seaport Casino by presenting their ID and just signing up for a membership card.

By accumulating points they can then participate in the campaign or redeem their points for great prizes.

The Summer Cash Campaign will have a total of 40 winners, so, you can be one of the lucky ones.

The Crystal Casino raffle will take place every Friday and the Seaport Casino raffle every Saturday winners will be announced at 8:00 p.m.

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SETAR closer to you...

A lot of information given during the first "SETAR Mas serca di bo!" session



"SETAR mas serca di bo!" will take place on June 26, 2012 at the Teleshop San Nicolas. SETAR invites everyone interested in the above mentioned topics to register online via the SETAR website: www.setar.aw or call 114. Due to limited space (max. 35 persons) please register as soon as possible. In July the session will held be in the district of Sta. Cruz.

Photos depict the public present at the teleshop Irausquin Plein and the evening's winners, which were Mirla Tromp who won a cellular LG, John Thode won 2 gift certificates and Ludwina Pena-Kock won a 2 month subscription for the new package of Fixed line telephone, TeleGratis.

line and Cable services. Each presentation lasted about 20 minutes and all present also had the opportunity to ask questions.

This event was organized to give information to the public on different topics and services, such as cellular android phones, Prepaid packages, 4G Wireless Broadband (Internet), Fixed

Everyone at the informative evening "SETAR mas serca di bo!" also received a nice gift and 3 prizes were raffled all present.

The next session of

Aruba's synchronized swimmers are off to Canada



Aruba's Barracudas Synchro Club are in Toronto, Canada. These swimmers who fall under the Arubaanse Zwembond.

These very gifted young people will be competing in the "Canadian Espoir Championships." This competition is divided into two groups; one of ages 12 and less, and the other ages 13 to 15.

In Canada, only the very best athletes of every province are permitted to participate in the championship. After this competition, Canada will choose their national selection of the age groups which will represent Canada at international competitions the following year.

The level of this athletic competition is extremely

high.

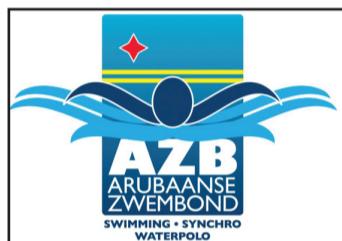
In the 12 year and under age group category, a total of 66 athletes will be participating. And, in the 13 to 15 yrs. age group 242 athletes will be participating.

Aruba has, in both categories, 8 athletes who will be performing figures, solo, duets and team routines. This will be an enormous

experience for our Aruban athletes.

The competition was scheduled to begin yesterday May 24th and will last until Sunday May 27th.

For those interested in watching the events live, they can do so via the website of Synchro Canada: www.synchro.ca. We are extremely proud of our Aruban team, and wish them great success!



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Seven top directors take seven slices of Havana to Cannes

CANNES -- (AFP) "7 Days in Havana", a snapshot of the iconic Cuban capital brought to the big screen in seven chapters by seven top international film-makers, held its world premiere Wednesday in Cannes.

Oscar-winning actor Beni-

cio Del Toro makes his directing debut with the first of the chapters, about a young American tourist in Havana for the first time who gets a touristic tour of the city that is anything but traditional.

Each director takes his turn to describe how a visitor

spends a day in the city, with the seven stories loosely linked through locations or through characters that slip from one chapter to the next.

Palestinian Elia Suleiman, whose film "Palestine" won the Jury Prize at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival, directs

chapter four, about a young Palestinian assigned to conduct an interview with a prominent Cuban figure in the city.

The other directors are Laurent Cantet, the French winner of Cannes' top Palme d'Or prize in 2008, Spain's

Julio Medem, Cuba's "Strawberry and Chocolate" director Juan Carlos Tabo, France's Gaspar Noe, and Pablo Trapero of Argentina.

The film was shown out of competition at the Cannes festival.



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Nearly 700 arrested in Canada student protests: police

MONTREAL (AFP) - Nearly 700 people were arrested overnight in rowdy demonstrations in Montreal and Quebec over a planned hike in student tuition fees with rocks being hurled at police, a spokesman said Thursday.

Police in Montreal had said the unsanctioned protest would be tolerated if there was no trouble but after some unruly behavior around midnight they moved in and arrested 518 demonstrators. Another 170 people were detained in Quebec.

All were issued with a more-than \$600 fine and released on Thursday morning, the police spokesman said.

Several thousand demonstrators had poured into Montreal's central square late Wednesday for the rally, defying a law passed last week re-

quiring organizers to notify authorities eight hours ahead of public demonstrations.

Of those arrested in Montreal, 506 were held for unlawful assembly but among the other 12 detentions one person was held for "armed aggression," two others for assaulting police, and one more was detained for wearing a mask.

Protesters said they were handcuffed and their arms held behind their back, local media reported.

Demonstrations have raged in Montreal since mid-February over a plan by provincial Premier Jean Charest and his Liberal Party to raise tuition fees at Quebec universities by 82 percent, or \$1,700, over five years in order to rein in a budget deficit.

Some of the demonstrations have turned violent, with store

fronts smashed.

The conflict escalated on Sunday with more than 300 overnight arrests after the passing of the controversial new law governing demonstrations.

Bill 78 prohibits freedom of assembly anywhere in the francophone province without prior police approval and requires protesters to give the authorities eight hours' notice before an event and follow a planned route.

Rather than quelling the unrest, it appears to have made things worse for the embattled premier.

The crisis has already felled one cabinet member, education minister Line Beauchamp, who said she was quitting politics altogether because she had "lost confidence in the goodwill of student leaders."

Polish union protests against retirement at 67

WARSAW (AFP) - Polish union members took to the streets of the capital Thursday in the latest protests against a new law that will gradually raise the retirement age to 67.

Under legislation pushed through by Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist government, the current retirement ages of 60 for women and 65 for men will gradually increase to 67 by 2020 for men, and 2040 for women.

The reform has been lambasted by unions and opposition parties on the right and left but the government insists the move is key to keeping the pension system solvent given the ex-communist EU nation's low birth rate and ageing population.

Tusk's governing party has pointed to the risk of "a dramatic labour shortage in Poland expected around 2040."

It has also compared the reform to similar moves in fellow EU states Denmark, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands which are currently phasing-in 67 as their official retirement age.

Already adopted by both

chambers of the Polish parliament, the proposed reform still requires approval from of President Bronislaw Komorowski to take effect.

The law would still allow early retirement for women at 62 and men at 65, but with the trade-off of a pension reduced by half. Women would also still need to accumulate 35 years of work, and men 40, to opt for the early retirement.

An AFP photographer said Thursday's protests saw about 1,000 Solidarity union members congregate under their union's flag in front of the presidential palace in Warsaw, where the head of state was expected to meet Solidarity chairman Piotr Duda.

On May 11, Solidarity union members blocked all doors at the parliament building in Warsaw for several hours, preventing MPs from coming and going after they had voted through the new retirement law.

In late March, over 10,000 people took to the streets in Warsaw under Solidarity banners to protest against the changes.

US panel cuts Pakistan funding over doctor row

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A Senate panel voted to cut aid to Pakistan by a symbolic \$33 million on Thursday, \$1 million for each year of jail time handed to a Pakistani doctor convicted of treason for helping the United States track down Osama bin Laden.

"We need Pakistan, Pakistan needs us, but we don't need Pakistan double-dealing

and not seeing the justice in bringing Osama bin Laden to an end," said Republican senator Lindsey Graham, who pressed for the measure.

Afridi was found guilty of treason, sentenced Wednesday to 33 years in prison and fined 320,000 rupees (\$3,500) under an archaic tribal justice system that has governed Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt

since British rule.

His sentencing was announced two days after US President Barack Obama appeared to snub Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari at a NATO summit in Chicago over Islamabad's refusal to lift a six-month blockade on transit routes into Afghanistan.

Afridi ran a fake vaccination program designed to collect bin Laden family DNA from the compound in the garrison town of Abbottabad, near Islamabad, where the Al-Qaeda leader was shot dead in a US commando raid in May 2011.

The US government says Pakistan has no basis to hold Afridi, whom an official at Peshawar central jail said was in poor health and being kept away from other prisoners to avoid any danger to his life.





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Suu Kyi: Reforms bearing 'buds,' not fruit

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi on Thursday voiced caution about changes in Myanmar, saying that a year of reforms have started to "bear buds" but not yet yield fruit.

Suu Kyi, who spent most of the past two decades under house arrest, entered parliament this month in the most dramatic sign of reform yet in the country earlier known as Burma. But she has repeatedly said that reforms are fragile.

"It has been very satisfying for all of us in Burma to know that our efforts to promote human rights have begun to -- I wouldn't say bear fruit -- but bear buds," Suu Kyi said in a video message to the graduating class of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, which presented her with an honorary degree.

"The buds have yet to blossom and the blossoms have yet to turn to fruit. But at least they're beginning to bear buds," Suu Kyi said.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner also appealed to Johns Hopkins University and other US educational institutions to look for ways to help Myanmar meet a "great need" to improve its young people's skills.

"There are vast numbers of unemployed graduates in Burma because the universities have not given them the kind of basic education that would enable them to find jobs," Suu Kyi said.

President Thein Sein, a nominal civilian, has surprised even many critics since taking over last year by undertaking reforms including freeing political prisoners and starting dialogue with Suu Kyi and ethnic rebels.

The United States has eased a limited number of sanctions on Myanmar, but both Suu Kyi and US officials have called for a careful and gradual process in order to preserve leverage and encourage change by the leaders.

Suu Kyi plans next week to travel abroad for the first time since 1988 to address an economic forum in Bangkok. She later plans to visit Britain, Norway and Switzerland.

In Oslo, she will make a speech to accept the Nobel Peace Prize that was awarded to her in 1991 and accepted by her British husband Michael Aris, who died in 1999, and their two sons.

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Mexico on alert as hurricane Bud gathers force

MEXICO (AFP) - Mexican authorities were on stand-by Thursday as the first eastern Pacific hurricane of the 2012 season, named Bud, strengthened to a category two storm off the southwestern coast.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said the storm had strengthened to a category two, but posed no immediate threat to land.

It was roiling in the sea

some 250 miles southwest of the coastal town of Manzanillo, with maximum sustained winds of 105 miles per hour, according to the US monitors.

The NHC however issued a tropical storm watch for the coastline from Punta San Telmo to La Fortuna, indicating that storm conditions were possible within the next 48 hours.

The storm was moving to the north at a speed of nine miles (13 kilometers) per hour and was not expected to approach the Mexican coast until late Friday, at which point it was expected to weaken slightly.

Storm swells causing "life-threatening surf and rip current conditions" were expected along portions of the southern and southwestern coast of

Mexico later on Thursday, the hurricane center said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a US federal agency, meanwhile issued its Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook, predicting that a "near-normal season is most likely."

The Atlantic hurricane region includes the northern Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Health & Living

Rabid bats kill 7 children in Peru: health ministry

LIMA (AFP) - Seven children have died from rabies in Peru over the past two months after being bitten by bats, an official said Wednesday.

The children, aged 11 months to 14, hailed from a remote region about 1,160 kilometers (721 miles) southeast of the capital Lima, Health Ministry official Ana Maria Navarro told AFP.

"According to the symptoms and medical reports, it appears the seven indigenous children died of rabies," she said.

Flu shots during pregnancy could benefit babies: study

MONTREAL (AFP) - Women who get flu shots while pregnant could also be protecting the health of their babies before and after birth, a new study suggests.

Using statistics from the Canadian province of Ontario, the findings, published this week in the American Journal of Public Health, are based on comparisons between expecting women who did and did not receive an H1N1 vaccine during the 2009-2010 "swine flu" pandemic that killed more than 14,000 people worldwide.

Navarro distanced herself from a lawmaker who suggested the deaths, which occurred between April 13 and May 20, were caused by water contaminated by leaking liquid gas.

To prevent further fatalities, vaccination teams have been rushed to the affected Camana community of 720 people that can only be reached by river.

In February 2011, at least six children in another region of the Amazon, in Peru's northeast, died of rabies carried by bats.

Fukushima radiation mostly within accepted levels: WHO

GENEVA (AFP) - Radiation affecting residents in Japan's Fukushima prefecture since the nuclear plant disaster is below the reference level for public exposure in all but two areas, the World Health Organization said.

The report compiled by experts and based on data available up to September last year also said radiation doses received beyond the first year are likely to be lower than that after the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe.

Environmental data showed a greater influence of a shorter-lived radionuclide than longer-lasting ones, the report said.

With Chernobyl about 30 percent of the lifetime dose was delivered during the first year and 70 percent in the first 15 years.

In Fukushima prefecture the radiation was mostly received via ground deposits whereas elsewhere in Japan food ingestion was the main path.



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Half of Roma population lacks household sanitation: study



VIENNA (AFP) - Only one in six of Europe's young Romas have studied beyond primary school, while half of the population lacks a toilet, shower or electricity, a new report said.

The study, conducted jointly by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the UN development programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, found that only 15 percent of

young Romas in the European Union have a secondary education or vocational training.

This compares with over 70 percent for non-Romas who live in similar conditions nearby, according to the report, which made a point of interviewing people from the two communities who shared "the same environment, labour market and social infrastructure."

The report was based on interviews with over 22,200 Romas and non-Romas in 11 countries -- France, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia -- representing much of Europe's Roma population.

The findings are to be used to inform the European Commission's policy on Roma, with Kjaerum calling for more investment into educating young people from this community.

"This is key to unlock their future potential, and it will equip young Roma with the skills they need to escape the vicious cycle of discrimination, exclusion and poverty," he said.

The Roma minority in Europe has a population of 10-12 million people, according to FRA estimates.

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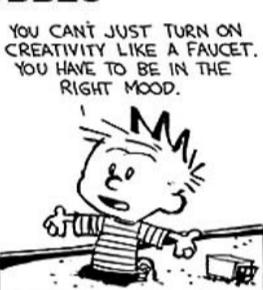
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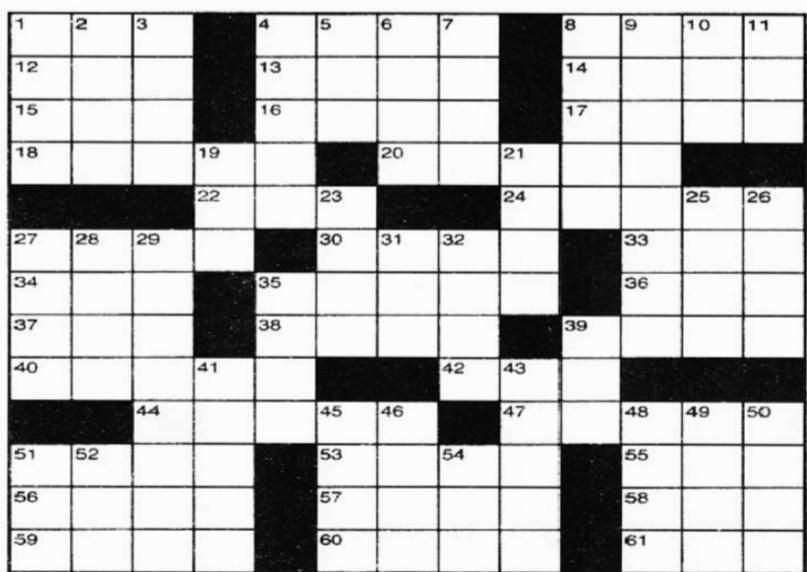
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ACROSS

- Short-sleeved shirt
- Ship's bow
- Slowly disappear
- League college
- Half (prefix)
- Melon feature
- Conifer
- Pizza-baking locale
- Gershwin et al.
- Bunch of boats
- Cardinals' homes
- Certain boxing wins (abbr.)
- Actress Annie
- the music
- Narrative
- Classic car
- de Janeiro
- Wizard's specialty
- Singer Janis
- Byrd's rank (abbr.)
- Poker money
- Grand Ole
- Cornball
- "— Today"
- Detroit's football team
- Behind
- Cinematic sleuth Charlie
- Dessert —
- Solemn wonder
- Newspaper item, for short

DOWN

- Lovers' quarrel
- Sinister
- "Jane —" (Brontë book)
- Scrapbook item, perhaps
- Clergy mem.
- Black cat, e.g.
- Ancient Peruvian
- Husbands
- fide
- Lennon or Astin
- California's time (abbr.)
- Vineyard beverage
- Crunchy corn chip
- Runway
- Heredity initials
- Harris and Asner
- Supplement
- Specification, for short
- Musical of baseball
- Salty discharge
- Name in TVs
- Monks' titles
- Verdi opera
- Gripe
- CIA employee
- In — of (replacing)
- Bread spread, for short
- Dunderhead
- Columbus vessel
- The Devil
- Mark Harmon TV show
- Lucid
- Force down
- Flock mothers
- Apartment charge
- Male swan
- "Entourage" channel (abbr.)
- "His master's voice" co.



SOLUTION

2	6	1	7	8	3	9	5
5	4	3	2	9	6	1	7
8	9	7	5	1	3	7	4
6	2	5	8	4	5	3	1
4	3	9	8	4	5	7	2
1	5	4	6	2	1	8	9
7	3	5	8	2	4	7	9
3	8	2	4	7	9	6	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Sudoku

			8				1	9	
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	5	9					8		

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6	2	5	8	4	5	3	1
4	3	9	8	4	5	7	2
1	5	4	6	2	1	8	9
7	3	5	8	2	4	7	9
3	8	2	4	7	9	6	1

Finance

Dollar hits 22-month peak vs. euro



NEW YORK (AFP) - The dollar extended its gains against the euro and other major currencies Thursday as investors sought safety as Europe's leaders struggle to contain Greece's debt crisis.

The euro was traded at \$1.2532 around 2100 GMT, down from \$1.2582 at the same time Wednesday.

The dollar also strengthened against the Japanese currency from a day ago, to 79.59 yen from 79.45 yen.

The embattled European currency earlier had plunged to \$1.2516, its lowest level since July 2010, after a European Union summit late Wednesday produced no clear path forward in the debt crisis and markets were besieged by a slew of discouraging economic data for the eurozone and Britain.

"Nothing in the data... suggests that economic conditions in the UK and Europe are easing against a backdrop of policy paralysis across Europe," CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson told AFP.

"Unless policymakers come up with radical new solutions... they will soon be faced with the prospect of delivering closer fiscal integration or overseeing the breakup of the euro," he said.

Kathy Lien, head of currency research at GFT, said the European Central Bank "unfortunately... is just sitting on the sidelines waiting for the heads of states in the region to end their political gridlock."

"Europe, the euro and the world for that matter desperately needs help from the Eu-

ropean Central Bank who has it within their power to stop the EUR/USD from falling," she said. "The next stop could be a six-year low of \$1.20."

The latest US economic indicators were subdued, showing the tentative recovery remained on track despite high unemployment.

New claims for US unemployment benefits fell last week, signaling a slow stabilization in the pace of layoffs.

Big-ticket manufacturing rose in April, with durable goods orders up a modest 0.2 percent. Excluding the defense sector, they jumped 1.2 percent.

"There were no major upside surprises but the modest decline in jobless claims and the rebound in durable goods orders confirm that the US economy is recovering," GFT's Lien said.

Against the Swiss currency, the dollar rose to 0.9584 francs from 0.9543 late Wednesday.

The pound fell to \$1.5668 from \$1.5689.

Annual Port and University Study Highlights presented to the media

Continued from pg 2

c. Satisfaction and loyalty factors

The analysis of the port competitiveness suggests that our cruise port enjoys a high rating compared to ports in the region. Services such as cleanliness, friendliness of port staff, and port safety generated a high score. The study did reveal however that the impact of the port on the general satisfaction level did not have a primary role in influencing the decision to return to the destination.

Further analysis also revealed that the port's total economic impact on the economy of Aruba is about US 150 million dollars. The average spending per passenger on our island was about US 170 dollars, which is a substantial increase from the latest figures published by our Central Bureau of Statistics in 2005 (US\$112.11 dol-



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For more information about the Slot Tournament, please contact our Players Advantage Club at 586-1234 ext. 4583.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



studies pertinent to our port and its impact on the economy of Aruba. The study is distributed with authorization of the University of Aruba. For additional information contact: ryan.peterson@ua.aw

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 05/24/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.720	1.740	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.740	2.790	2.850
Switzerland	CHF	1.8754	1.8826	1.8906
Netherlands	EUR	2.2342	2.2546	2.2773
Sweden	SEK	0.2389	0.2461	0.2541
Denmark	DKK	0.2937	0.3009	0.3089
Norway	NOK	0.2880	0.2952	0.3032
Japan	JPY	222.11	224.14	226.39
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,000.00 per item.				

Spanish Eurovision singer urged to go for 'nul point'



MADRID (AFP) - Spanish public television directors urged the country's Eurovision Song Contest entry not to win this weekend's event because they would not be able to afford to stage it next year if she did.

Under the rules of the contest, the public broadcaster of

the nation that wins the event plays host to the competition the following year.

Pastora Soler, who will represent Spain on Saturday in Baku with her ballad "Quedate Conmigo" ("Stay With Me"), said that when she met directors from broadcaster TVE, they joked: "Please, don't win!"

"I think it is not the moment, neither for Spain nor for Spanish public to win Eurovision. If we won, I think it would be impossible to stage the next edition because it costs so much money," she told ABC Punto Radio.

Spain's conservative government has slashed spending and raised taxes to reduce the nation's public deficit.

The spending cuts have affected all areas, including public television TV which has been forced to cancel several popular television shows as a result.

The winner of the Eurovision contest -- which began in 1956 as an elegant black-tie event -- is selected by a jury and online and telephone votes from viewers.

Mocked for its "bubblegum pop" and overtly political voting, the contest has been won twice by Spain.

The event boasts a television audience estimated at around 125 million people each year.

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ENGLISH
LIFESTYLE &
NEWS SHOW**

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Elton John cancels US shows due to illness: reports

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Elton John has canceled three shows in Las Vegas this week after being hospitalized for a "serious respiratory infection" in Los Angeles, he said in a statement reported Thursday.

The British singer spent the day Wednesday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where he underwent extensive tests, it said, announcing the cancellation of his "Million Dollar Piano" tour shows on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday this week.

"Elton developed a serious respiratory infection last weekend while performing at The Colosseum (in Vegas) on Sunday, May 20," said the statement, apparently from his website, reported by the LA Times.

"This week the condition worsened, even with medication and rest, resulting in Elton being hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where he remained throughout the day for extensive tests.

"Those tests resulted in the attending... physician recommending that Elton not perform any concerts for approximately seven days with complete rest and antibiotic treatment to cure his respiratory infection and prevent any damage."

In the statement -- which was not immediately viewable on his website, Twitter feed or Facebook page -- John said he was "very disappointed" at having to cancel.

"It feels strange not to be able to perform these 'Million Dollar Piano' concerts at The Colosseum," John said.

"I love performing this show and I will be thrilled when we return to The Colosseum in October to complete the 11 concerts soon to be scheduled. All I can say to the



fans is sorry I can't be with you."

Publicists for the singer did

not immediately respond to requests for confirmation, or further details.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting online at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit



Gouda Burger 2



EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

June 8 - July 1



Sweden looking for redemption at Euros



Swedish Petter Hansson (Sweden beat defending champions Greece 2-0 in their opening Euro 2008 Group D match) AFP/Photo

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Having failed to reach the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Euro 2012 is an important tournament for Sweden to prove they have overcome that setback.

Prior to the 1990s, Sweden's qualification record for big tournaments was patchy to say the least.

Although they had qualified for seven out of 12 World Cups from 1934 to 1986, they had never made it to a European Championship finals before hosting the competition in

1992.

But since then they have been regulars at both major events, missing out only twice on World Cup qualification and once at the Euros since 1990.

They have become something of a steady but unspectacular presence at most international events.

Their qualification for this tournament was quite impressive considering they missed out on the 2010 World Cup.

They pipped Portugal and Croatia as the best second

placed team in qualifying thanks to a 3-2 win over the Netherlands in their last group game.

That ended the Dutch team's 17 match group stage winning run and proved that Sweden are capable of mixing it with the big guns.

Their best Euros result came when they hosted the event in 1992 when they reached the semi-finals but this is a competition that has not always been won by the favourites.

Denmark's victory in 1992 and Greece's in 2004 are testament to the surprises the Euros can produce.

Sweden are built around a solid and organised defence looking to launch quick counter-attacks, something similar to tactics Greece used to great success in 2004.

A lot depends on Sweden's talisman, AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Outside of his homeland and Italy he is often considered to be someone who looks a genuis against minnows but fails to produce the goods when the going gets tough.

Citta the elephant to sniff out Euro 2012 wins



Citta, a 33-year-old female elephant AFP/Photo

WARSAW (AFP) - An elephant in Poland is set to sniff out winners in the Euro 2012 football championships, using her trunk where Germany's Paul the Octopus used his wily arms to prophesy for the 2010 World Cup.

Citta, a 33-year-old female elephant from a zoo in the southern Polish city of

Krakow, will make her first tournament prophecy on June 6, two days before the kick-off of the 16-nation contest co-hosted this year by Poland and Ukraine.

"During her meet-and-greet with the media, she swallowed a football: it was leather not plastic and had no adverse effect on her digestive system,"

Krakow zoo director Teresa Grega told AFP on Thursday.

With fruit for her crystal ball, Citta will call the outcome of the June 8 Poland-Greece match at the Warsaw National Stadium by picking between three apples -- two labelled with country names and the third in case of a tie.

The Indian-born elephant -- who spent twenty-odd years in a German circus before moving to Austria, Spain and Krakow in 2006 -- appears to really enjoy football, according to Grega.

In 2010, Paul the Octopus became the world's most famous mollusk when he foretold the results of every match played by Germany at the World Cup in South Africa, as well as Spain's victory against the Netherlands in the final.

Paul has since died, leaving it up to Citta to take up the animal-soothsayer mantle in Poland, while co-host Ukraine has chosen a pig in capital Kiev to divine outcomes.

Getting in on the animal act too are a sausage dog called Sissi and Rossi an octopus, both from Germany, and Nicholas, an English-based llama.

That is perhaps a little harsh as it is naturally tougher to find space and be effective against better teams but Ibrahimovic still has a lot to prove.

He was his team's top scorer in the group stages but his role is more than just finishing things off in the box. He is a focal point for bringing the likes of Kim Kallstrom, Sebastian Larsson and Johan Elmander into the game.

Kallstrom is another crucial element to the team as, alongside Germany's Mesut Ozil, he

produced the greatest number of assists in qualifying, across all groups.

Sweden's task is tough in a group containing hosts Ukraine and traditional powers England and France.

However, those last two certainly won't be taking the Swedes lightly.

Back in 1992 they were again considered the favourites in a group containing Sweden and Denmark but the Swedes came top and both England and France crashed out.

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Sixers force game seven with Celtics

continued from page 16

Boston was equally inept at times, shooting just 33 percent from the floor and committing 17 turnovers.

Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett provided 24 and 20 points for Boston, who kept within striking distance by making 20-of-23 from the free-throw line.

"They had a lot of energy tonight and I just think they outplayed us," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said of Philadelphia.



Brandon Bass #30 of the Boston Celtics gets his hand tied up by Thaddeus Young #21 of the Philadelphia 76ers

phia. "We had a lot of empty possessions offensively."

Game five hero Brandon Bass finished with just eight points on two-of-12 shooting. His 27 points sparked Boston to a 101-85 rout on Monday and a series lead.

Frenchman Mickael Pietrus drained a 22-foot jumper from beyond the arc to give the Celtics a 36-33 lead at halftime.

Philadelphia stepped it up in the third quarter, building a 60-56 lead going into the fourth.

The last time the 76ers and Celtics squared off in a game seven was 1982. The rivalry began back in 1949-50 when the 76ers were based in Syracuse.

"Game sevens are what they are," Rivers said. "It is nice to have it at home but you have got to go get it."

The 76ers and Celtics have met in the postseason 11 times with Boston winning seven of those.

MLB Standings

American League

	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	28	17	.622	--
TAMPA	27	18	.600	1.0
TORONTO	24	21	.533	4.0
YANKEES	23	21	.523	4.5
BOSTON	22	22	.500	5.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CLEVELAND	26	18	.591	--
CHICAGO	22	22	.500	4.0
DETROIT	20	24	.455	6.0
KANSAS	17	26	.395	8.5
MINNESOTA	15	28	.349	10.5
West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	27	18	.600	--
OAKLAND	22	23	.489	5.0
SEATTLE	21	25	.457	6.5
LA ANGELES	20	25	.444	7.0

National League

	W	L	Pct	GB
WASHINGTON	26	18	.591	--
ATLANTA	26	19	.578	0.5
NY METS	24	20	.545	2.0
MIAMI	24	20	.545	2.0
PHILADELPHIA	22	23	.489	4.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
ST. LOUIS	25	19	.568	--
CINCINNATI	24	19	.558	0.5
HOUSTON	21	23	.477	4.0
PITTSBURG	20	24	.455	5.0
MILWAUKEE	18	26	.409	7.0
CHICAGO	15	29	.341	10.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB
LA DODGERS	30	14	.682	--
SAN FRANCISCO	23	21	.523	7.0
ARIZONA	20	25	.444	10.5
COLORADO	16	27	.372	13.5
SAN DIEGO	16	29	.356	14.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot;
y-Division Champ

NBA: Bryant, James get nod for first All-Star team

NEW YORK (AFP) - Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant and league MVP LeBron James highlight the National Basketball Association's All-Star team which was announced on Thursday.

That trio are joined by Chris Paul and Dwight Howard. For Bryant, it marks his seventh consecutive and 10th first All-Star team selection.

Durant, who edged Bryant for the scoring title with an average of 28 points per game, earned 117 first team votes.

James received 118 of 120 first team votes to make his fifth-consecutive team.

He led Miami in scoring (27.1 points per game), assists (6.2 assists per game) and rebounding (7.9 rebounds per game). James also shot a career-best 53.1 percent from the floor this season.

The second team consists of guards Russell Westbrook and Tony Parker, forwards Kevin Love and Blake Griffin

and centre Andrew Bynum.

The third team comprises guards Rajon Rondo and Dwyane Wade, forwards Carmelo Anthony and Dirk Nowitzki and centre Tyson Chandler.

This is Chandler's second award this month as he was recently named the NBA Defensive Player of the Year.



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NBA: Sixers force game seven with Celtics

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - The Philadelphia 76ers kept their season alive with an 82-75 victory over the Boston Celtics Wednesday to force a seventh game in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

Jrue Holiday finished with a team-high 20 points and six assists while Elton Brand had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Sixers who evened the second round series at three games each.

"We competed every possession. It was a battle," Philadelphia head coach Doug Collins said. "Our guys did a really good job tonight."

Game seven takes place in Boston on Saturday.

"We have given ourselves a chance. All we wanted was to win tonight and give ourselves a chance," Collins added.

Philadelphia rebounded from a 101-85 loss in game five by rallying in the second half to beat the favoured Celtics.

Philadelphia missed 11 free throws, hit just one-of-nine from three-point range and were outrebounded 48-37. But the Sixers had five players reach double figures in scoring.

"That was a gutty win to say the least," said Collins. "We had 33 points at halftime with five missed free throws and nine turnovers. It wasn't a masterpiece. In the second half we took away a lot of those dunks and layups. Second half, we only had three turnovers.

"The one thing I wanted us to do was keep pushing."

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Friday:
After 6 happy hour,
\$ 3 wine and mix
drinks, free tapas



from 6 till 9pm
followed by
**Czar Olarte with
Los Intokables**
from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Wilhelminastraat 63 Oranjestad, Aruba 582 3677

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

OPENING PARTY / WELCOME CELEBRATION

10pm - 3am, Hard Rock Café (Noord)
Featuring DJ General Lee

THURSDAY, MAY 24

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS

LASER 101: w/ GEE MONEY St. Maarten Radio
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR: MIDDAY w/ TRACI LATRELLE
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WBAV: MIDDAY w/ CHIRL GIRL
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

DOUG & DEDE SHOW

3pm - 7pm, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad)

FOXXHOLE RADIO

5pm - 7pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

CARUBBEAN FESTIVAL

6pm - 10pm, San Nicholas

NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am, Hard Rock Café (Noord)
Featuring DJ General Lee

FRIDAY, MAY 25

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOTCAMP

9am - 10am, Westin Hotel Poolside (Palm Beach)

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS

LASER 101: w/ GEE MONEY St. Maarten Radio
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR: MIDDAY w/ TRACI LATRELLE
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WBAV: MIDDAY w/ CHIRL GIRL
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

FOXXHOLE RADIO

3pm - 6pm, Radisson - Gilligan's (Palm Beach)

DOUG & DEDE SHOW

3pm - 7pm, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH COMEDY NIGHT

7pm - 11pm, Aruba Entertainment Center (Oranjestad)
ARIES SPEARS
TONY ROBERTS
GINA YASHERE

NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Frank Ski

SATURDAY, MAY 26

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOTCAMP

9am - 10am, Westin Hotel Poolside (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

MAIN STAGE CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Soul Beach Amphitheater - Nikky Beach Adjacent (Oranjestad)
LL COOL J featuring DJ Z-TRIP
LEDISI

ARUBA ALL-STARS

11:30pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Bubby Love

SUNDAY, MAY 27

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

10am - 3pm, Baby Beach (San Nicholas)

MAIN STAGE CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Soul Beach Amphitheater - Nikky Beach Adjacent (Oranjestad)
R. KELLY

MELANIE FIONA YOUTH XTREME

11:30pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Biz Markie

Olympics: Tokyo, Madrid, Istanbul make cut for 2020



QUEBEC CITY (AFP) - Tokyo, Istanbul and Madrid made the first cut among bidders to host the 2020 Olympics, as the International Olympic Committee announced that Baku and Doha were dropped from the running.

The IOC will decide which city will host the 2020 Olympics in a final vote on September 7, 2013 in Buenos Aires. That gives the remaining hopefuls more than 15

months to make final impressions upon the IOC to boost their candidacy.

Tokyo 2020 bid chief Tsunekazu Takeda said Wednesday that being on the short list would help boost the spirits of the Japanese people after last year's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Tokyo is the only one of the candidates to have hosted the event before, doing so in 1964, and many see Tokyo as the pacesetter because of its sound

plan for hosting the games.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said hosting the Games would "serve as a symbol of Japan's recovery from last year's tragedy."

As in 2008, Tokyo is considered the frontrunner with the best technical file, but is facing fewer rivals this round, with the total number of candidate cities down from five last time.

With the 2018 Winter Olympics being held in Pyeongchang, however, there may be a reluctance to hold back-to-back events in Asia.

Ordinarily Madrid would be seen as running close with Tokyo, having beaten them in the race for 2016 only to finish a runner-up to Rio de Janeiro. Madrid also offers some of the best conditions for athletes.

But the specter of Spain's dire financial crisis hangs over the bid.